CLAIMS

1. A method for the determination of the sex of an avian subject, the method comprising contacting a sample from said subject with a nucleic acid probe comprising an at least 6 base pair fragment from a target nucleic acid sequence as shown in Figures 8 to 12, or a sequence complementary or homologous thereto.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the avian is a member of Class Aves

3. A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the avian is selected from the group consisting of *Gallus gallus* (chicken), turkey, quail and guinea fowl.

4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, in which the sample is allantoic fluid or amniotic fluid

5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the sample is taken from an egg.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the analysis of the sample comprises a nucleic acid amplification procedure

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the nucleic acid amplification procedure is exponential amplification of the target sequence.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the nucleic acid amplification procedure is linear amplification of the target sequence.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, which comprises amplification of RNA in the sample.

10. The use of a nucleic acid sequence or a fragment thereof according to any one of Figures 8 to 12 in a method according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. A nucleic acid sequence as shown in any one of Figures 8 to 12.

12. A kit of parts comprising a nucleic acid probe comprising an at least 6 base pair fragment from a nucleic acid sequence as shown in Figures 8 to 12 for determining the sex of an avian subject, or a sequence complementary or homologous thereto.

13. A polypeptide or fragment thereof coded for by a nucleic acid sequence of any one of Figures 8 to 12.

14. A polypeptide comprising a sequence as shown in Figure 15.

15. A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of any one Figures 8 to 12.

16. A host cell comprising a vector as defined in claim 15.

17. An antibody to a polypeptide as defined in claim 13 or claim 14.

18. An antibody as claimed in claim 17 which is a monoclonal antibody.

19. A method for the determination of the sex of an avian subject, the method comprising contacting a sample from said subject with an antibody to a polypeptide as defined in claim 13 or claim 14.

20. A kit of parts comprising an antibody as defined in claim 17 or claim 18 for determining the sex of an avian subject.